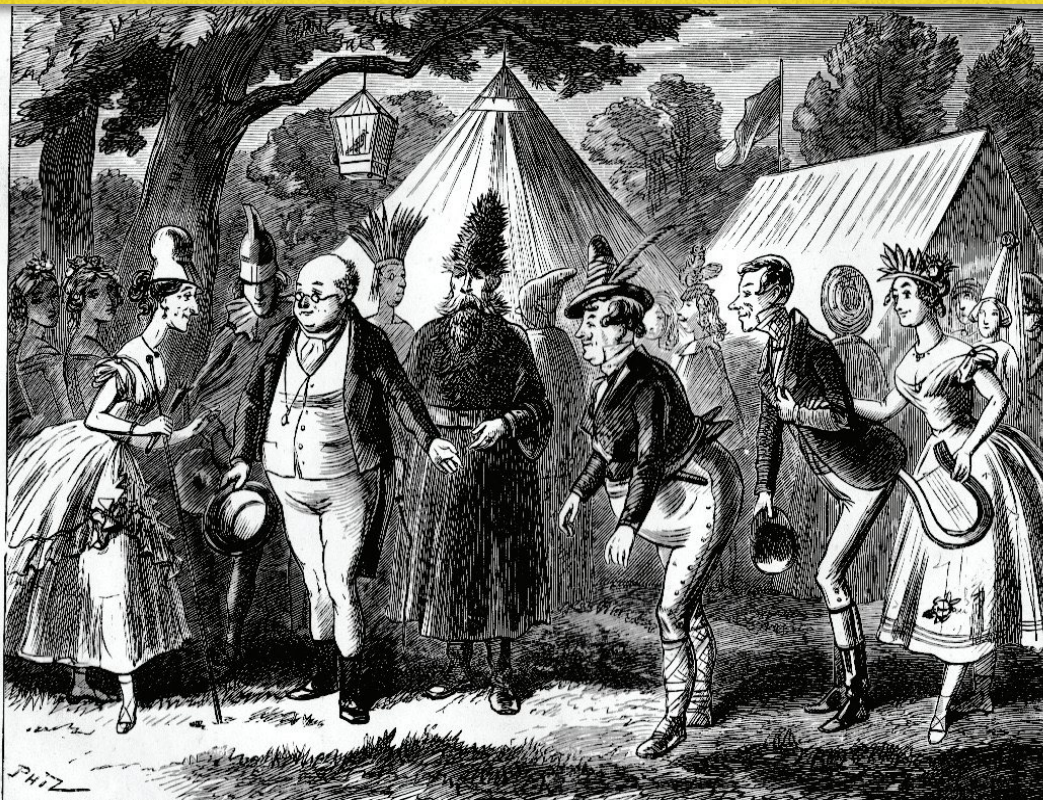


The Pickwick Magazine

The World's Oldest Cycling Club
and Oldest Dickensian Society Extant

Founded in 1870



Permit me to introduce my friends - Mr Tupman, Mr Winkle, and Mr Snodgrass,

Still Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 19 No.1 March 2022

Editorial thoughts.....



Here we are once more, still in uncertain times, which continues to make life difficult to plan with any confidence. However your committee have been hard at work to ensure that our outstanding events for the 150th celebrations will go ahead this year wherever possible.

I would like to say a personal thank you to Mr Watty, who took on the mantle of President in the expectation of glorious celebrations of our 150th Anniversary, and in spite of it all being put on hold, continued to make sure that the Club continued to function as best it could throughout his extended tenure.

We must congratulate Dame Laura & Sir Jason Kenny on receiving recognition from HM The Queen, in the New Years Honours List. Chapeau to you both!

What can we look back on since the last issue - the Hampton Court Ride took place from a new venue on the Thames; the December Garden Party went ahead; and we have a new President - aka Hunt - as you will see in the following pages.

So what else - how about the new Highway Code for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists? Well, from what I can see, the changes for cyclists are both good & bad, but more importantly, how many road users are aware of them? So a pedestrian can step off the kerb in front of you when you, or a motor vehicle are turning left, and will have right of way. I can see a few issues there! And to safeguard us cyclists, when approaching a junction, we should move out to the centre of the lane, so we are visible to motorists. Definitely see an issue there! I am aware that the intended changes for cyclists to no longer be allowed to ride two abreast, have been scrapped (that's good in most cases-not all) but I fear the patience of motorists will be strained, if they are impeded by cyclists in the middle of the road. Many of us are still plagued by motorists who don't give us enough room when passing, so in the middle of the road, we will be targets. And don't forget to open your car door with your left hand to safeguard passing cyclists.

Hopefully many of you have been able to continue to ride as often as possible and retain reasonable fitness during the past 2 years of the pandemic, and can convert the endeavours of your efforts into plenty of bike riding this year, as life hopefully returns to some degree of normality. Hope to see many of you 'up the road' in the months to come as 2022 unfolds before us. Ride Safely, Ride Happy..... **Editor**

Closing Date for the October 2022 issue will be **31st August 2022**

All contributions are welcome and much needed, and should be sent to the Editor, by email to: pickwick2610@hotmail.com

Latest News from Your Secretary

[email:sdownham@vailwilliams.com](mailto:sdownham@vailwilliams.com)



Another year gone and I hope we do not have to endure another like it! The club did manage to arrange a few events, but nothing on the scale we had hoped for, and I thank everyone involved in the events that did take place, which I know were enjoyed by those who attended. It was good to see so many Club member faces in December and hopefully even more at the anniversary dinner and the President's luncheon in May.

Others may also mention that the May event will be special being the President's luncheon envisaged in 2020 with lady guests and music hall entertainment. Members are advised to arrange their guests early. Application forms will be probably sent after the anniversary dinner.

I am often asked when the membership list will reopen. As things stand and reported at the AGM, the waiting list numbers exceed the available soubriquets, and therefore it is unlikely that the list will open in the foreseeable future. We have agreed to increase the available soubriquets with a few new acceptable names, but soubriquets only become available in a few recognisable ways.

The way that gives me no pleasure is when we have deemed a member as having resigned for failing to attend the minimum number of luncheons (one in any three) without good reasons. I would remind members that anyone finding it difficult to meet this requirement, but who meets the requirements, can apply for a retired membership. By this means, they can still attend luncheons if they are able, receive the newsletter and can attend the AGM. Becoming a retired member releases a soubriquet to allow another new member to join. As a result of the current limited number of names it is proposed that we will introduce 6 new members in May, but thereafter numbers may be only two or three to ensure that there is a new member introduced at every luncheon.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next few months.

Stay safe

Regards

Sergeant Buzfuz



President, Samuel Pickwick
has a few words to say.....

Every now and then I get one of those moments when the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end, and for me, this happened at the President's lunch in December last year, when the out-going President, Mr Watty, asked for "Hunt", to please make his way to the top table. With pride, I made my way to the front with generous applause from members and guests alike, to receive the President's medal of office.

Other members have probably had a similar moment, when you became a member, and stood with pride in front of the very impressive Connaught Rooms main hall to hear your soubriquet announced; mine was on the 4th May 2000 when, in accordance with the provisions of rule 3 at Club events, I would hereafter be known as "Hunt". Then, as now, I stood listening for the first time in the great room, and the hairs stood up on the back of my neck.

I would like to thank the out-going President for all of his hard work, in what has been a tough two years for him, during which most events were cancelled or postponed. However as I write ,the Club has a full agenda of events planned during my year as President, starting with the re-arranged 150th Black Tie members Dinner on the 25th February when it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

As our Honorary Secretary said to me back in May 2000, in Chapter 19 when I stood awaiting my soubriquet, in Chapter 19 *"Mr Pickwick may have taken more than cold punch this lunchtime and fallen asleep in a wheelbarrow. So should you find me asleep at lunch, perhaps you could remove me in something more comfortable with 4 wheels"*.

Please take him at his word, so if you find me in such a state, be so kind as to order me a taxi!

I look forward to meeting and sharing 2022 with you all.

Regards from your President, Samuel Pickwick.

Your Captain has some words for you.....



Dear Fellow Pickwickians, I wish you a Happy New Year.

Let us hope we are now over the worst of our pandemic and that we can now start to meet as a Club on a regular basis again and finally celebrate our Birthday?

I would like to begin this Captain's words by thanking our past President, Mr Watty. He did a wonderful job, keeping our Club together over the last two years, working tirelessly keeping in touch with members and arranging and supporting events.

We are getting ever closer to celebrating our Club's 150th Anniversary, some two years late! We have received good support from our members for the prestigious dinner at Saddlers Hall on the 25th February. We start at 18.00 hrs and it is going to be a truly wonderful evening and not to be missed. It is never too late to book your ticket if you have not done so.

We are to have our Presidents Luncheon on Thursday 12th May at the New Connaught Rooms. Please can I ask all members to make a big effort to support this lunch. This is the one and only time you are likely to be able to bring ladies to one of our Club luncheons. We have spent a lot of money on our anniversary celebrations, and therefore really do need your support at this event to help with the overall funds.

May I remind all members to come properly dressed and to arrive on time for events.

I am hoping we will now be able to hold all of our usual events for the remainder of the year and hope as members you will consider supporting as many of them as possible.

With Pickwickian Greetings, I wish our Club and members, a successful year ahead.

Dr Payne / Club Captain



The Vice-Captain Murmurings.....

Pickwickian Felicitations for the New Year!

Welcome Back and thank you!

As your Vice-Captain, I had to step up at last minute to stand in for our esteemed Captain as he was caught in the self-isolation requirements coming back from Spain.

It was so good to be back and meet up with so many of you, it was such a relief!

In my role as Vice-Captain, I became the master of ceremonies at very short notice, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and kind words, before, during and after the event. A special thanks goes to Mr Watty (the outgoing Mr Pickwick) for his help, advice and encouragement during the lunch. I am not a natural public speaker, but with his support, actually really enjoyed the event!

It was great to meet and be introduced to the new members, that were brought into the Club during the two year gap.

I would like to extend further special thanks to Mr Watty, Past President, during the two years we were apart, as he has worked tirelessly to keep the Pickwick tradition going and was the main protagonist of the very successful Zoom Pie Dinner. As well as this, he organised other things such as the mugs etc. which kept us all going through those tough times.

Finally, thanks go to Mr Trundle (Tim West) for his help with the Punchbowl ceremony.

I look forward to meeting you all at the 150th (plus 2) anniversary on February 25th at the Saddler's Hall, and at the Spring Luncheon in May when we allow ladies to attend for the first time in a long while!

Mr Dunkins
Club Vice-Captain

Hampton Court Ride - October 2021



Not quite the same numbers that rode in the 1877 Hampton Court Meet, when 69 Pickwickians participated, amongst the total of around 2000 riders, and the procession took over an hour to pass the Greyhound Pub, BUT, nonetheless we were a'wheel again at last!

As a result of the Covid pandemic, our Club activities had been sadly abandoned during the past two years, but a new dawn was upon us, and with a new venue at the very smart Thames Yacht Club for this illustrious ride, excitement was in the air on this bright, dry morning as bicycles of every shape & size appeared from their motorised transport, accompanied by riders of a similar description.

Leader of the pack, and organiser Hunt, takes up the story.....

For the first time in nearly two years, Pickwick members and their guests have managed to get together, face to face, and enjoy a day out on a good old Pickwickian occasion with fellow members. With over 40 participants arriving at the new venue in a lovely setting by the Thames at Hampton Court, for a 10am departure. It was wonderful to see so many old friends and some new faces on their first club event.

As always we had arranged two rides; this year we had 10 intrepid, seasoned riders accordingly dressed heading to Richmond Park on a 25 / 30 mile loop, well lead by the " Rt.Hon. Wilmot Snipes, and Dave Betts, a guest of Pruffle. So a new route as well as a new venue for the 2021 road ride.

Some of our lady guests headed off to the Palace and gardens across the road, leaving myself plus the 20 or so riders, on an assortment of machines. These included our President "Mr Watty", "Charles Fitz-Marshall", and our Honorary Treasurer "Brother Mordlin" (from now on, known as the lost boys), riding their three splendid Penny Farthings in traditional attire. We all headed off along the Thames towpath past Hampton Court Palace and grounds, towards Kingston, then on into Bushy Park. Yet again the weather was kind to us, and with all of the so well prepared machines, a good incident free ride was had by all.



An innocent observer



The Lost Boys with friends



A pre-lunch snack on route



The Diana Fountain

My thanks go to my two guests Andy and Keith, who sat at the rear of the ride to keep us all together along the way. However, about half-way, Andy reported to me that the 3 pennies had gone missing! When later questioned "the lost boys" had arranged an impromptu race around the Diana Fountain, to recreate the 1877 Race from the Hampton Court meet of that year, whilst totally ignoring the direction the rest of us had taken. Now I've lived in the area for 60+ years, and know the park well, but they managed to find parts I've never been to !!! Knowing that the three of them had been on the ride many times, I was convinced it wouldn't be long before they showed up at our pit stop at The Star in Hampton Hill, for a pint and a sandwich. Five minutes later and my assumption was correct. After heading back through the park to the Thames Yacht Club to reassemble with the road riders and other guests, we prepared for lunch,

It was good to see Mr Brooks and family, plus Ballie-Mac Something with their guests, join us for the meal, by our new caterers" Hampton Hampers ", who served us with Roasted pepper and tomato soup, steak, mushroom and ale pudding, followed by apple crumble and custard; all washed down with a suitable red wine.

A good day was had by all, with the last guests leaving around 5 o'clock. My thanks to Pruffle for his help in organising the event and a Thank You to all members, who supported the event. See you all next year.

Your Deputy President. "Hunt"

And now....rarely do we hear much about the sometimes mentioned Lycra Louts ride into the Surrey Hills other than they went very fast, climbed a lot of hills and still had time tea, coffee and a plentiful repast of cakes, returning for lunch as if they had simply taken a stroll along the Thames. **BUT**....this year, a newly appointed member The Bagman, was coerced into writing about their exploits, and their tales of derring do..... in a strangely titled:

THE PICKWICK MAMILS - HAMPTON COURT BIKE RIDE

An optimistic title maybe, but at least we were all young at heart, and the group of riders that gathered for a ride in the countryside down to the Surrey Hills were relieved that it was mild and dry after all the rain we had been having. Soon we were to find out from Dave Betts our leader, that he'd checked out the route the previous day and as many roads were flooded it wasn't possible for us to go in the usual direction, so he'd planned an alternative ride to Richmond Park.

Leaving our new venue, the Thames Motor Yacht Club we joined the towpath in the direction of Kingston, following its long arc to Kingston Bridge, then over the bridge onto the cycle path, a short bit of road past Bentalls, under the little railway bridge near the car parks, and finally sharp left down Hall Road to the start of the towpath towards Richmond.

A pleasant ride, passing many boat clubs, and following the Thames to Teddington Lock, where we turned away from the river looping round, until we turned left along the edge of Ham Common. Across the A307 into Ham Gate Avenue and up to the entrance to Richmond Park. Here we turned left and continued clockwise past the Richmond and Roehampton gates and to the now, long closed Kingston Vale gate, where we turned right up Spankers Hill to Pen Pond Cafe.

Most of the group were eager to stop for refreshments, but having warmed up on the ride, four of us decided to set off down the other side of the hill to Sheen Cross. Turning right and still in a clockwise direction, we did a lap of the park - something I had not done for over 50 years! The two guys from Oxfordshire were at the front, with me behind alongside Namby (Maurice Burton) who commented on their brisk pace, especially as one of them had only started cycling since the start of the pandemic.

Passing the Kingston Vale Gate and up Test Hill, (now called Broomfield Hill), Maurice apparently did not change down a gear, and sailed up the hill while we mere mortals chugged up slowly to rejoin him before the Kingston Gate. Continuing our circuit back to Sheen Cross, we were soon back to Pen Pond Cafe.

Setting off again en masse, we passed the Ballet School entrance, down to Sheen Cross once more, then turning left and going anti-clockwise to the Kingston Gate. Exiting Richmond Park we crossed over the A307, along the back roads, and looping round via the little railway bridge we passed earlier in the morning and retracing our way back along the Thames towpath to the Yacht Club. Thanks to Dave's efforts, we had a different, but most enjoyable ride, and a nostalgic one for me, having covered just over 30 miles.

.....report from The Bagman

And so we now know what the 'other lot' do, when they disappear over the horizon. So, a successful & enjoyable day was had by all, riders & guests enjoying the common aim of our Club - good friendship.

At lunch, there was the usual handout of trophy awards, or at least those that were on site on the day. Our erstwhile President that was, received the appropriately named President's Cup for being the most culpable in the Lost Boys affair!

Our President gets a trophy for leading others astray in the Park!



Thanks once again, go as always to Hunt - or Samuel Pickwick Esq, our esteemed President as he now is, and Pruffle, for their organisation of this historic cycle event. And to Dave Betts, for leading the ride to Richmond Park.

For sure, the Pickwickians are back on the road.....Editor

The Benson VCC Rally - Sunday 3rd July

Another event that has missed out during the past two years - is definitely happening this year. Our Club has been represented in this glorious rally/ride for many years, so why not make a day of it and take along your historic bicycle (if you have one) and participate. If not just take yourself along and enjoy a great day out.

Contact Details - bensovcc1960@gmail.com

Another Look Back at the Hampton Court Ride History

In the last issue you will have read about the early Hampton Court meets between 1872-1883, written by our old friend Keith Robins. Here we continue over the next six years at which point the event appears to have ceased. That is until it was resurrected by Hunt & Pruffle in the 21st century.

1878 - held on May 18th the fourth ride took place, and the account in **Bicycling News** reported that; *“The Hampton Court Meet in 1878 is a matter of history, and few persons will be found to hold an opinion that the gathering was in any respect a success. People went in crowds to see the grand procession of riders, but instead of that, witnessed several detachments of men, riding in most instances irregularly, and producing an impression of awkwardness, not from the bad riding of individuals, so much as from the palpable fact the bicycle riders had not had fair play. The total number of riders attending was 1240. There were 61 London and 14 Country Clubs represented, the largest of which was the London Bicycle Club with 106 and followed by the Pickwick with 65. “*

1879 - the fifth event was held on May 10th, and **Bicycling News** reported that it was a much more orderly affair than the previous year. 73 Metropolitan Clubs were represented amounting to some 1000 riders, with 23 Provincial Clubs sending just 144 riders. The London BC didn't take part, and the highest numbers came from Temple BC - 66, Stanley BC - 62, and the Pickwick - 42. It was noticeable that apart from the lower numbers, there was also a lack of enthusiasm for the event in the manner in which it was recorded.

1880 - Initial interest was that Mr Pickwick had had a Club flag made in anticipation of the forthcoming event for the princely sum of £2. 5s. 8d. and proposed to hang it from the balcony (?) from which the committee's friends could view the event. The ride took place on May 22nd and was once again reported in **Bicycling News** as being an unqualified success, with much praise for the organisers. No numbers were reported other than the Temple BC having the most riders, followed by the Pickwick who had many important men in its group.

1881 - to be held on May 21st with Shirley Fussell appointed as secretary, but subject to some confusion and concern due to **Bicycling News** publishing an article to the effect that the event was the original idea of their editor. (was this an early indication of questionable actions by the media? - your Editor). Keith obviously thought so, and researched the whole nefarious matter back to 1875 and found the Pickwick BC resolution in April of that year, that arrangements had been made by Messrs Pickwick and Stumps, that the Hampton Court meet should be accepted by various clubs. In the event, the day was reported such, 'that beautiful weather favoured the occasion and some 2100 riders participated, with 48 from the Temple BC, and 36 from the Pickwick.' by no less than.....**Bicycling News** .

Hampton Court Ride History cont'd.....

1882 - the Pickwick BC led the procession on May 20th in beautiful weather, with some 1521 riders from the Metropolitan Clubs taking part. In addition, there were 8 Tricycle Clubs present, 104 riders from the Bicycle Touring Club, plus over 400 unattached riders, making a grand total of 2350 riders. The Brixton Ramblers topped the list with 46, the Pickwick with 30, and the Temple BC with 29.

1883 - was to be the ninth and final Hampton Court meet on May19th. Although it enjoyed excellent weather, the event was waning in its appeal, with many of the stalwart clubs no longer participating. Nonetheless, 100 Metropolitan Clubs were represented by 1122 riders and the Provincial Clubs by 211 riders. With a variety of other riders, the overall total was 1409 riders.

And so we come to the end of this potted history of the early Hampton Court Rides, but we can applaud ourselves inasmuch that, whilst the numbers will never again reach the dizzy heights of the 19th Century, thanks to the enthusiasm of OUR Club, and in particular- Hunt & Pruffle, the ride will remain in the annals of the Pickwick Bicycle Club in the 21st Century, through this magazine.....Editor.

Eroica Britannia 2022

This event has now been running since 2008 in the UK, and your Editor was fortunate enough to participate in 2018 when it was held in the Peak District. Subsequently the event entry process changed, before it was then suspended.

In 2021, a 'taster' event for 150 riders was included in the September Goodwood Revival meeting in glorious Sussex. For those of you that don't know, this 3-day event is organised by the Duke of Richmond on the old motor racing circuit/airfield, to remember motor racing, classic car marques, and clothing of a bygone age. The Eroica test was led by Sir Chris Hoy and was the pilot for the 2022 event, when cyclists riding pre-1987 machines and attired accordingly, will be able to participate in vast numbers. The two days set aside are 6th&7th August, consisting of 25, 60, & 100miles options around the hills of Sussex, plus a traffic free Family Ride on the circuit. An ideal 'fit' for Pickwickians, so why not register your interest asap at allevents.in and let's see if we can show them what cyclists of the Golden Era were all about. See events list on pp31, and the plans for the Ordinarys.



The 151st Annual Garden Party....

Celebrations were under way once more when the Household Cavalry sounded the fanfare to put everyone under starters orders for the first time since 2019. Reduced numbers and a different layout of the Grand Hall at the Connaught Rooms, to ensure safe social distancing greeted us, as we prepared for our latest Annual Garden Party.



There was a distinct murmuring of excitement amongst members and guests, as we finally gathered to enjoy this, our first live luncheon, but wait....where is our Captain? A victim of the pandemic, he was forced to isolate and so it fell on the broad shoulders of Vice-Captain Dumkins, to call the room to order by means of the Club bell.



We all duly applauded the arrival of our President, Samuel Pickwick with principle guest, Adger Brown, to their position at the very select top table, before boaters were removed for grace. We were soon back into the swing of things, as hardly had a morsel entered our mouths, than there was a call by Dumkins to stand, or sing ...or both. The first of these was the arrival of the original member, Charles Fitz-Marshall who it seems must have been on the road since the last Garden Party in 2019.



The Original Member

The interim of two years hadn't dimmed the quality of fayre at the Connaught, as they delivered us an excellent meal of citrus salmon gravalux with dressing, creamed white onion, leek and scallion soup with truffle cream, followed by the seasonal sliced turkey and all the usual items to fill our plates. Christmas pudding plus mince pies sated our hunger.



During our dining, Dumkins was in action on behalf of the President who wished to take wine with all Past Presidents. Then it was the turn of Charley the Pot-Boy to welcome the guests, which included A number of notable names, including the inimitable Phil Liggett, well known to all in the world of competitive cycling - a guest of The Justice Stareleigh. before asking all Club members to raise their glasses to our guests. See pp29 for the full list.

Secretary Sergeant Buzfuz was then called upon to announce the five new members being elected into the Club. Tim Clark was given the soubriquet of Prince Bladud, and Martin Chaldecott that of Welps, but unfortunately neither of them were able to attend the luncheon. Of those present, James Harman is now known as Thomas Burton; Paul Woodman (he of the baker's bike complete with bread at the Hampton Court ride) becomes Ramsey, and Jeremy White, at the special request of the late Keith Robbin's wife, will now carry the name of Peter Magnus. We welcome them all to the Club and as usual hope they will help to maintain and continue its traditions.



Dumkins then rang the bell again to bring the gathering to attention, and sing The Old Brigade, as two of the inimitable Chelsea Pensioners, accompanied by Mr Trundle, marched to the top table with the Joseph Atto Punch Bowl. As always they announced their regiment(s), rank, number & age before being toasted by the President. It must be me, but they do seem to be getting younger!





The arrival of the Punch Bowl accompanied by the Boys of the Old Brigade and Mr Trundle

In spite of the lower numbers, the charity fines for improper dress code, donations or whatever you wish to call them, generated a sizeable amount of cash duly collected from each table and presented to Dumkins as he loves helping the ladies to count it all! The money will go to the Past President's chosen charity - Prostate Cancer UK.

There then followed a special occasion, for a special award of a new, Honorary Life Member Medal to be given to Samkin by the President, for his extraordinary work in organising so much of the planned 150th Anniversary celebrations of our Club. Much of the memorabilia etc that members have seen over the past two years are the result of his endeavours, with more to come at the Black-Tie Dinner. Chapeau to Samkin!



And so we came to the entertainment stage of the lunch, and we could have had no better person than Adger Brown, to bring back the memories of hilarious afternoons at the Garden Party. Initially when I saw his name on the menu, I wondered why we were having an American rehabilitation consultant as a speaker - had we suffered so badly during the past two years that we were in need of help. Adger was clearly not that person and soon dispelled the idea, as laughter quickly erupted across the room.

So many stories, life style, observations, simple jokes, and a very wide repertoire that kept us amused and attentive, and made me realise why he is one the best after dinner funny men around, and a fitting guest for our 'revival luncheon'. His entertaining style held his audience throughout, and it was all too soon that he concluded by asking all of the guests to raise their glasses to the "Immortal Memory of....."

It was then the turn of President Samuel Pickwick /Mr Watty to respond on behalf of the Club. He said that it had been an 'interesting' two year tenure as President, quite clearly as unexpected as it could be with the pandemic, curtailing all of our grand plans and activities to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Club, but.....with a fair wind, 2022 would see those plans fulfilled. He urged all members to get their tickets ordered for the Black Tie Dinner and the May, Spring luncheon to ensure those events were well supported once again. He acknowledged the support from within the Club for those activities that had been possible, and that he had, in spite of all the difficulties been very proud to hold the office of President of the Pickwick Bicycle Club.



Socially Attired President



Dumkins then called upon Hunt to attend the top table to receive the Presidential badge of office for the forthcoming year, from the out-going President.

Past President / Mr Watty with
new President Samuel Pickwick

And so it was time to conclude proceedings once again with Auld Lang Syne, sung with a lot more gusto than previous years, or was that just because we were all so pleased to finally come together as a Club once more?





An array of photos from the 2020 Garden Party



All photos courtesy of Mike Thomas





Who Were Your Early Namesakes? Researching Your Ancestors

The Pickwick Bicycle Club has been in continuous existence since its formation in 1870, and the soubriquets of its members have been faithfully passed down from generation to generation. If you would like to receive the available history of your soubriquet, then please contact Joseph Smiggers at:

steve@stephenbullen.com and you will receive the information by return.

The Scientific Gentleman -an elderly gentleman of scientific attainment

"While these things were going on in the open air, an elderly gentleman of scientific attainments was seated in his library, two or three houses off, writing a philosophical treatise, and ever and anon moistening his clay and his labours with a glass of claret from a venerable-looking bottle which stood by his side. In the agonies of composition, the elderly gentleman looked sometimes at the carpet, sometimes at the ceiling, and sometimes at the wall; and when neither carpet, ceiling, nor wall afforded the requisite degree of inspiration, he looked out of the window.

In one of these pauses of invention, the scientific gentleman was gazing abstractedly on the thick darkness outside, when he was very much surprised by observing a most brilliant light glide through the air, at a short distance above the ground, and almost instantaneously vanish. After a short time the phenomenon was repeated, not once or twice, but several times; at last the scientific gentleman, laying down his pen, began to consider to what natural causes these appearances were to be assigned".

David C Bonner

1989 to present

The Cobbler - a bald-headed cobbler who rented a small slip room:

"Finding all gentle remonstrance useless, Mr. Pickwick at length yielded a reluctant consent to his taking lodgings by the week, of a bald-headed cobbler, who rented a small slip room in one of the upper galleries. To this humble apartment Mr. Weller moved a mattress and bedding, which he hired of Mr. Roker; and, by the time he lay down upon it at night, was as much at home as if he had been bred in the prison, and his whole family had vegetated therein for three generations."

Keith Audas

1992 to 2011

retired member

Nicholas Tribe

2016 to 2018

transferred to "Old Nobs"

Dave le Gry

2018 to present

former National Sprint Champion and
Commonwealth Games Silver medallist

Mr Warren – the amiable Mr Warren referred to as Mr Samuel arrives at**The White Hart:**

"'Vy didn't you say so before,' said Sam, with great indignation, singling out the boots in question from the heap before him. 'For all I know'd he was one o' the regular threepennies. Private room! and a lady too! If he's anything of a gen'l'm'n, he's vurth a skillin' a day, let alone the arrands.' Stimulated by this inspiring reflection, Mr. Samuel brushed away with such hearty good-will, that in a few minutes the boots and shoes, with a polish which would have struck envy to the soul of the amiable Mr. Warren (for they used Day & Martin at the White Hart), had arrived at the door of number five."

Augs Nickerson	1925 to 1941
Joseph Levy	1944 to 1975
H L Lazarus	1976 to 1985
Stuart Benstead	1987 to 2019
Nigel Redmile	2021 to present

Henry – a cousin of Marie Lobbs and who married her:

"The only eye-sore in the whole place was another cousin of Maria Lobbs's, and a brother of Kate, whom Maria Lobbs called "Henry," and who seemed to keep Maria Lobbs all to himself, up in one corner of the table. It's a delightful thing to see affection in families, but it may be carried rather too far, and Nathaniel Pipkin could not help thinking that Maria Lobbs must be very particularly fond of her relations, if she paid as much attention to all of them as to this individual cousin."

A Stow	1942 to 1950
A J C Henderson	1960 to 1972
H F Goold	1973 to 1991
John M Avery	1991 to 2005
Mark Smith	2008 to 2018
Martin Farrow	2021 to present

Brown of Muggleton – a shoemaker:

'Stop a bit,' replied Sam, suddenly recollecting himself. 'Yes; there's a pair of Vellingtons a good deal worn, and a pair o' lady's shoes, in number five.' 'What sort of shoes?' hastily inquired Wardle, who, together with Mr. Pickwick, had been lost in bewilderment at the singular catalogue of visitors. 'Country make,' replied Sam. 'Any maker's name?' 'Brown.' 'Where of?' 'Muggleton.'

Joseph Bane	1942 to 1944
Paul T Traxton	1990 to 2018
Andy Cook	2020 to present

Augustus Snodgrass – poetic follower of Mr P. Member PC:

“That the said proposal has received the sanction and approval of this Association. 'That the Corresponding Society of the Pickwick Club is therefore hereby constituted; and that Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., Tracy Tupman, Esq., M.P.C., Augustus Snodgrass, Esq., M.P.C., and Nathaniel Winkle, Esq., M.P.C., are hereby nominated and appointed members of the same; and that they be requested to forward, from time to time, authenticated accounts of their journeys and investigations, of their observations of character and manners, and of the whole of their adventures, together with all tales and papers to which local scenery or associations may give rise, to the Pickwick Club, stationed in London.”

J Woolford	1870 to 1875	forced to resign as he was deemed a professional cyclist
J G Chapman	1877 to 1889	
W H Waddington	1904 to 1915	
W J Welch	1924 to 1938	
C Gilbert Smith	1942 to 1964	
W Lee	1968 to 1978	
R Davis	1979 to 1991	
Michael Ennis	1991 to present	President 2008. Committee

Hon. Wilmot Snipe – Ensign 97th Regiment at Ball at Rochester

“'Wait a minute,' said the stranger, 'fun presently--nobs not come yet--queer place--dockyard people of upper rank don't know dockyard people of lower rank--dockyard people of lower rank don't know small gentry--small gentry don't know tradespeople--commissioner don't know anybody.' 'Who's that little boy with the light hair and pink eyes, in a fancy dress?' inquired Mr. Tupman. 'Hush, pray--pink eyes--fancy dress--little boy--nonsense--ensign 97th--Honourable Wilmot Snipe--great family--Snipes--very.' 'Sir Thomas Clubber, Lady Clubber, and the Misses Clubber!' shouted the man at the door in a stentorian voice. A great sensation was created throughout the room by the entrance of a tall gentleman in a blue coat and bright buttons, a large lady in blue satin, and two young ladies, on a similar scale, in fashionably- made dresses of the same hue. 'Commissioner--head of the yard--great man--remarkably great man,' whispered the stranger in Mr. Tupman's ear, as the charitable committee ushered Sir Thomas Clubber and family to the top of the room. The Honourable Wilmot Snipe, and other distinguished gentlemen crowded to render homage to the Misses Clubber; and Sir Thomas Clubber stood bolt upright, and looked majestically over his black kerchief at the assembled company.”

J Sloughgrove	1878 to 1902	President (1895), Vice President (1897,1900)
Frederic Curis	1920 to 1925	
W E Smee	1926 to 1928	
John T Chaseney	1930 to 1952	President (1937), Won Winkle Cup in 1937
D Frazer-Allen	1956 to 1971	
C A Macqueen	1975 to 1995	
Peter Hamon	1996 to 2012	
Howard Bradbury	2013 to present	

The Sporting Life & Times of Samkin.....

Continuing our series of member profiles, the spotlight this time has fallen on Past President Samkin, or Peter Legg as many of you will know him. Not a lifelong active cyclist but an ardent sportsman both in the field andon the touchline.

So Peter, How old were you when you got your first bike, and what was it?

As with most kids of my era, my first memory is of a red, 3-wheeled tricycle complete with boot and closing lid, which was delivered via the chimney at Christmas. I have to admit that my interest was more around parking it, usually reversing, into various spaces between my mother's plant pots. I progressed through various sizes and types of bikes which seemed to come and go fairly quickly as I grew tall relatively early, ending up with a Dawes racing bike as a teenager. Many hours were spent in Chorleywood and around The Chilterns on rides with friends and in an environment when children were allowed to explore and roam with a high degree of freedom, so long as you were back by 5 o'clock for tea. My sporting aspirations lay more in team sports as I played both football and rugby for a number of school and club teams. The real cyclist in the family is my son, Wilkins Flasher.

How has your interest in sport developed then?

Having learnt to play golf aged 11 as a cadet at Harewood Downs Golf Club, I played regularly in my teenage years but when my career and family came along, I rarely played other than at the occasional Company-sponsored day, charity event and the odd Society match. I now try to play more regularly but find even though I am semi-retired that I get side-tracked into supporting a number of different companies I know, so do not get to play as often as I would like. I can claim that I have won all of the members' trophies at the Pickwick Golf Day – Jinkins Balls (for the worst shot!), The Winkle Cup (nearest the pin) and the magnificent old Namby Trophy presented to the overall winner (3 times!) I still ski, and hopefully will do so for a few years yet. However, I am aware that my brain works faster than my body these days (although some would question the brain comment!) and I have to make allowances for that. I have also become a keen rugby spectator and regularly attend Six Nations games and have been fortunate enough to attend 5 World Cup Finals, including being present for the 2003 England triumph in Sydney.

You became a member of the PickwickBC in 1977 - how did this come about?

As a result of helping him in business, my father (soubriquet John) was invited by Tom Turrell (Bill Stumps) to become a member of the PBC in 1968. Tom, who was President in 1960 had been very supportive of the Club during its financially lean years and with his nomination, I became a member in 1977. I believe that after you, Mr Winkle Snr being Father of the Club, I am the next longest serving current member. The Club at that time was looking for members, so the now familiar waiting list, didn't apply. Having been a member of the Club for 44years, some of which time I was living in Toronto, proves testament to the enjoyment I have had in attending Club functions, and maintaining the connection whilst abroad.

Do you have any other cycling or Dickensian connections?

I became a member of the Dickens Pickwick Club during my year as President, almost without knowing it! Mr Justice Stareleigh (Ron Gray) had been badgering me for some time to join, but I had conveniently ignored his suggestions! However, at the unveiling of the Charles Dicken's statue in Portsmouth there was a subsequent black-tie dinner, which my wife Janet & I thoroughly enjoyed, so I agreed to attend the AGM at the George & Vulture in December 2014. It was there that the Hon Secretary gave me a soubriquet name badge and informed me that I was in arrears for that year's subscription and the next year as well!

You became President in 2014, so what are your early memories of our Club and who were the guest speakers at the luncheons during your year of office?

My early memories of the luncheons focus very much on the illustrious list of speakers who would willingly come along for a free lunch, great company and traditions that we still hold dear today. Some of the speakers that stick in my mind, are Henry Cooper, Graham Hill, Denis Compton, Harry Carpenter – who regaled us with stories of Muhammad Ali - and other sporting legends. One could also never forget the occasions Ron Moody, who of course played Fagin on stage and screen joined us as guest speaker – happy times. During my year as President, the speakers were Alan Tait, of golf fame at Carnoustie and Ian Irvine, who will be the speaker at our 150th Anniversary dinner. It will be his third visit, which if it is anything like his previous two, will be particularly memorable.

You have been very much involved in the 150th Anniversary organisation, so would you care to explain how it all came together - albeit 2 years late?

Several years before the 2020 Anniversary, I offered to chair a small working party which included Jack Martin (John Mist) Slum (Andy Ash) and Mr. Staple (Chris Tyler) to put forward ideas as to how the Club should celebrate such a landmark anniversary. We decided fairly early on that we should look for one signature event which evolved into the long-anticipated black-tie dinner at Saddlers Hall. We also wanted to involve spouses and partners in the President's Luncheon and sought an event where we could have variety entertainment which would hopefully appeal to everyone. This will, due to the pandemic, now take place in May when the Brick Lane Music Hall players will bring London's East End to the President's Luncheon.

Finding a suitable venue for the signature event meant that the Captain and I visited some dozen different venues in London, finally settling on Skinners Hall however due to the delays, we had to find an alternative. Saddlers Hall provides us with everything we will need with the same caterers providing the hospitality. It should be a real night to remember.

Our other focus was to provide some lasting assets for the club which recognised our reaching 150 years in existence. We chose a bell and had one of the last bells cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry before it closed. I was fortunate enough to have a tour of the foundry and learn about how bells were made, and one interesting fact was that the mould is made from horse manure, clay and goat's hair! It was a truly inspiring visit, and included seeing the wooden frame which was the mould guide for Big Ben. Regrettably, what was purported at the time to be the oldest commercial business in the country, is no longer in existence.

One other fascinating feature of the visit was that the ledger dating back to June 22nd 1870, was extracted from shelves and I was able to see the purchases and cash book for the day the Pickwick Bicycle Club was founded!

Something else to commemorate the occasion and provide an ongoing asset for the Club is the traditional leather-bound ledger which now has the names of all members and retired members on 22nd June 2020 inscribed in the ledger, and all future members will be added on the day they enter the club.

We also looked to source a 150th celebration tie and bow tie... you wouldn't believe how many design and product samples were necessary, before we got to the tie that was ultimately distributed in 2019.

The clay pipes presented a real challenge, but as a working party we were determined to secure them as they are very much part of our heritage. It transpired that there were no commercial makers of clay pipes left, and the craft had been lost. I managed to find an academic at Liverpool University who had acquired moulds from a Manchester firm that had closed down. He made the odd batch of pipes, for the film and TV world, and when asked to supply 600, he needed a lot of persuasion and a 2-year time frame, since his garage was the production facility. He finally delivered them to my home, when we discovered that his wife was the leading authority on the history of the clay pipe and the curator of the clay pipe collection at Liverpool University. She is often called in to archaeological sites as remnants of clay pipes are an easy way to date the site as the design of them changed very frequently.

The other benefit of taking this job on was that I was able to spend time at a Cheshire micro-brewery crafting the Pickwick beers which arrived in bottles in 2019 for members, and will be on draught at the 150th dinner. I was casting around for names for the beers and with help from Boz (Ian Dickens) we came up with Posthumous, Samuel Pickwick and Fat Boy. I have to admit a tour of the brewery was very necessary along with appropriate tastings.

Other commissions were the beer glasses and jute bags.

What are your favourite memories of the Pickwick BC?

Having been a member for so long, a lot of memories that spring to mind. Attending luncheons with my father and his friends and business associates along with my brother-in-law. Now the memories are attending the luncheons with my circle of friends, together with my son (Wilkins Flasher) and son-in-law (John Smauker) and their friends.

I had a fantastic year as President and am grateful to the club for giving me the opportunity. Highlights included replacing the plaque at the Downs Hotel, where the club was formed; the visit to the Olympic Velodrome after a real East End pub meal; and the party in Harrogate when the Tour de France finished in the town.

I also felt very honoured at the 2021 December luncheon, to be presented with the special award of an Honorary Life Member medal by the President, Samuel Pickwick.

And finally Peter, it's been a pleasure listening to your life with the PBC, is there anything you want to add as a message to the new members of the Club?

Sadly, none of us are immortal, and as we pass through life it is important that we understand our role in stewarding the traditions, values and fun for which the Pickwick Bicycle Club stands. We must hold on to these ideals, as they are what make the Pickwick Bicycle Club so special. I would urge members to attend the AGM, and volunteer to assist or be involved in a greater way than just attending the luncheons. You might be surprised at the enjoyment, experiences, friendships and opportunities you will have along the way!

My Best Wishes for an amazing 150th Anniversary - Peter Legg (Samkin)

The Charles Dickens Museum -Special Exhibition April -September 2022

In December last year the Club received notification from our friends at the Museum, that they were planning an exhibition called -

" Picturing Pickwick: the Art of the Pickwick Papers"

The background to this starts back in 1836 when, following the success of the '*Sketches by Bos*', Charles Dickens was approached by the publishers Clapham & Hall, to write the copy for a new series which "illustrated the manners and life in the Country" to be published monthly. He set to work immediately and *The Pickwick Papers* was born. The rest as they say, especially for our Club, is history.

The exhibition will explore the enduring popularity of the novel, and items relating to clubs & societies inspired by the endeavours of Samuel Pickwick, and his compatriots, Nathaniel Winkle, Augustus Snodgrass & TracyTupman; all names which we in the Pickwick Bicycle Club will instantly recognise. The exhibition will also highlight the international success of the novel, and feature for the first time in the UK, some 262 illustrations created in 1928-29 by Anna Marongiu whose life was cut short at the age of just 34 in a plane crash. The Museum will also partner a local school, to set up an after-school art club to investigate how the novel was illustrated and the impact that it had on its reception.

And so to the part of our Club in this exhibition. At the recent committee meeting in February, it was agreed to make a donation of £1500 towards the Museum funding of the exhibition, which was received with grateful thanks by Museum Director, Dr Cindy Sughrue. In addition we will be providing some Club paraphernalia, such as, a Boater (courtesy of the late George Gibbs/Wikins Flasher family), a boxed Clay Pipe (complete with Shag) and a place mat featuring the picture of our original six founding members, (as supplied to members last year). One further item will be a potted version of how & why our Club was formed and its indelible link with Charles Dickens & The Pickwick Papers.

The Museum is well worth a visit and has a plethora of historic items dating back to the great man's life and residency at Doughty Street, and in their archives are some specific items originating from our own Club history. We had an excellent private visit to the Museum in 2019, and we should perhaps look to repeat this during the period of this exciting exhibition. Whilst the Club has made its donation, remember that as individuals you too, can make your own contribution to support its longevity, and....Gift Aid it!Editor

Dumkins Offers Sartorial Attire for your Selection

I have now had a number of enquiries from members would like Blazers and Waistcoats. So you should be aware that we have to have a minimum run of material made, to produce these and then they are tailored to your exact measurements. We need to order more material and buttons to make a new batch and this requires sufficient orders from members to be able to satisfy the manufacturing requirements.

Based on current costs, the blazers and waistcoats work out as follows:

Blazer - £295.00

Waistcoat - £180.00

Blazer and Waistcoat - £450.00

If you are interested in purchasing these items, please contact me at the details below, stating that you wish to purchase a waistcoat, a blazer or both.

Upon receipt **I will send you an order form with the measuring instructions and the payment instructions.** As these are tailored for each individual, **payment is due in advance**, and you take responsibility for your own measurements. If it doesn't fit when you get it, but meets the order form requirements, then you are responsible for the fit!

As these are all made to order and we have to get the material ordered, as well as the buttons from China, it will take 5 to 7 months to get them made and dispatched (sooner I hope) but you need to know the time scale. All of the above requires sufficient members to order blazers and waistcoats; if we do not get sufficient numbers then we cannot proceed. We need to be ordering around 45 Blazers to make this happen, I have enquiries for around 10 at the moment. Even if you have expressed your requirement to me before, you still need to respond to this notice to get on the list. To place your order please email me at dumkins@pickwickbc.co.uk , or call **07872 334472** with the following information:

What you wish to order -

Your Name -

Soubriquet -

Address -

Post Code -

Mobile Number -

Thanks, Dumkins

Your Immediate Past President Reviews His 2 years in Office

For most of my two years as President of your Club, I have been furloughed with little opportunity to meet and greet members in our normal way. Despite this, there has been much to do to keep in contact with you all, in the hope of a return to near normal times once again.

The clash of this wretched pandemic with our 150th celebration year was most untimely, but clearly it was completely out of our control. Importantly, we have survived another challenge in our history and live to ride again, as the oldest extant cycling Club in the world!

I have kept in touch with you all, by referring to our Membership Book 2020 which is an important record of our membership 150 years on from that founding day of 22nd June 1870 at the Downs Hotel, Hackney.



Mr Pickwick and fellow members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club At the Downs Hotel 22nd June 2020

Having cancelled the President's Luncheon 2020 we were determined to meet in 2021, so the President's Dinner was held on Zoom with over 100 members and 200 guests attending. The beer, pies and port were well received and we were entertained by Hal Cruttenden. Although it was well received by members, you can't replace a physical meeting, so we hope it will be the first and last virtual President's Dinner!

While the club normally keeps out of the limelight, I managed to appear on the front page of The Times, riding my Penny Farthing, dressed in club uniform. I hope that it brought a smile to your face!



Just to reassure you, I didn't crash into the child on his balance bike!

Having acquired the Grand Old Ordinary Trophies for the club, we were unable to hold the races in 2021, but are hoping to get agreement to hold them at the Goodwood Eroica Britannia being held 6th - 7th August 2022.

Our first meeting post-pandemic was the Hampton Court ride in October 2021, and thanks to Hunt and Pruffle for organising a great event. There were 40 members and guests attending and after a gentle ride, we enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Hampton Court Motor Yacht Club - a great venue for future years.

Despite the lack of meetings there has been much going on behind the scenes, and I thank the Committee and Officers for their support during my extended tenure as your President. I was delighted to pass over the President's medal to Hunt at our Garden Party in December 2021.

Thank you for supporting my chosen charity of Prostate Cancer UK and I am pleased to confirm that together we raised £4,009 to help fund research that will, one day, end this disease and save countless men's lives.

It has been an honour to serve as your President for the last two years, and I pass the mantle on to Mr Pickwick (Hunt) wishing him every success during his Presidency.

Mr Watty/ Stuart Mason-Elliott/Assistant Secretary

Thursday 9th June.....
 sees the
 Revival of the
 Annual Golf Day



As you are all well aware, the Annual Golf & Cycle day has been cancelled for the past two years, due to theyes you know only too well why. However, Smithers has toiled once again to ensure that it will go ahead this year.

The regulars will know, but for the benefit of new members who have joined the Club during the interlude since 2019, there are a wide selection of Club cups & trophies to compete for. The Harpenden course is very picturesque, although it can be difficult in places, but remember - the day is all about friendship and a day out with friends. So come on you new members, enjoy a bacon roll, have a day out and meet other members of the Club.

You will have noticed though, that there is no mention of the cycle ride around the mountainous terrain of Hertfordshire. Sadly, after many years of organising this part of the day, Mr Justice Stareleigh has hung up his bicycle clips & saddlebag, and feels it's time for someone new to pick up the reins and lead those who prefer two wheels to a bag of clubs. So, [IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE IN THE LOCAL AREA WILLING TO HEAD UP THE RIDE? IF SO, THEN PLEASE LET SMITHERS KNOW ASAP](#)

Entries with details, to be sent by email to Smithers Esq - davlinc2000@aol.com or by post to: Smithers Esq at - Keepers Cottage, Church Rd, Sutton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2NB

Please reserveplaces for golf & luncheon @ £70 each
places for luncheon only @ £25 each

Please indicate food choices - vegetarian, vegan, gluten free meals, if required.

Member's Name & Soubriquet & Golf H/cap, plus your contact details.

Guest Name(s) & Golf H/cap

If a cycle event can be arranged, then it's: cycle ride, bacon roll +lunch = £30 each

The Luncheon Guest List introduced by Charley the Pot-Boy

Firstly, on Table 26 welcome to our most senior member, Soloman Pell/Don McKellow, our oldest member! Don competed for GB in the 1952 Helsinki Games riding the 1000metres time-trial, finishing 5th just 2 seconds outside the World Record.

On table 6, guest of Jackson, we welcome Jeremy Chandler who is a member of the Club des Cents Cols, having climbed on a self-propelled bicycle over 100 different Cols with 5 being over 2000m altitude.

On table 21, guests of Dr Slammer, we welcome his three son-in-laws!

On table 17, guests of Brown of Muggleton, we welcome Simon Lillistone, a Team GB track rider at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and 1992 Barcelona Olympics. At London Olympics 2012 he led the delivery of all the cycling events with 100 staff, 100 contractors and over 1000 volunteers.

On table 18, guest of Mr Pickwick we welcome Andrew Coombes who, for 15 years has designed and printed our tickets and menu cards for our luncheons.

On table 15, guest of Mr Ayersleigh, is Paul Kirby who was Production Designer for many films including Kingsman: The Secret Service, Cinderella and Shazan! Fury of the Gods and was also in Phantom of the Opera.

On table 10, guest of Mr Justice Stareleigh is Phil Liggett, well known for his coverage of The Tour de France and many Olympic Games.

And finally our Guest speaker Adger Brown, I will leave you to research this one!



We raise our hats to our guests,
and to the new members of the
Pickwick Bicycle Club

The Front Cover Story -Chapter XV-

Where Samuel Pickwick
introduces his friends....



.....Then there emerged from the house Mrs. Pott, who would have looked very like Apollo if she hadn't had a gown on; conducted by Mr. Winkle, who, in his light-red coat, could not been mistaken for anything but a sportsman, if he had not Bornean equal resemblance to a general postman. Last of all, came Mr. Pickwick, whom the boys applauded as loudly as anybody, probably under the impression that his tights and gaiters were some remnants of the dark ages; and then the two vehicles proceeded towards Mrs. Leo Hunter's; Mr. Weller (who was to assist in waiting) being stationed on the box of that in which his master was seated.

Every one of the men, women, boys, girls, and babies, who were assembled to see the visitors in their fancy dresses, screamed with delight and ecstasy, when Mr. Pickwick, with the Brigand on one arm, and the Troubadour on the other, walked solemnly up the entrance. Never were such shouts heard as those which greeted Mr. Tupman's efforts to fix the sugar-loaf hat on his head, by way of entering the garden in style.

"Mr. Pickwick, ma'am," said a servant, as that gentleman approached the presiding goddess, with his hat in hand, and the Brigand and the Troubadour on either arm. "What? Where?" exclaimed Mrs. Leo Hunter, starting up, in an affected rapture of surprise.

"Here," said Mr. Pickwick.

"Is it possible that I really have the gratification of beholding Mr. Pickwick himself?" ejaculated Mrs. Leo Hunter.

"No other, ma'am," replied Mr. Pickwick, bowing very low. "Permit me to introduce my friends- Mr. Tupman - Mr. Winkle- Mr. Snodgrass- to the authoress of 'The Expiring Frog.'"

Very few people but those who have tried it, know what a difficult process it is to bow in green velvet smalls, and a tight jacket, and a high-crowned hat: or knee-cords and top boots that were never made for the wearer, and have been fixed upon "him without the remotest reference to the comparative dimensions of himself and the suit. Never were such distortions as Mr. Tupman's frame underwent in his efforts to appear easy and graceful - never was such ingenious posturing, as his fancy-dressed friends exhibited.

Events for 2022

Once again we are able to publish a full list of planned events for the year, but this time with a little more confidence than during the past two difficult years. As always they are subject to change or amendment, but we sincerely hope that this will be our revival year. The events require a lot of organisation and so this year, more than ever it is hoped that as many members as possible can turn up and support the Club colours.

8th May - Chestnut Sunday Parade @ Bushy Park: Still TBC as we go to press.

Details from Mr President: roger@burtscycles.co.uk

12th May - President's Spring Luncheon - apply Hon Sec Sgt Buzfuz.

9th June - Golf Day (no cycle ride at present, but late news, Joseph Smiggers might be able to organise something) - so watch out for further information. See pp28 for details of the golf & lunch.

3rd July - Benson VCC rally - contact: bensonvcc1960@gmail.com

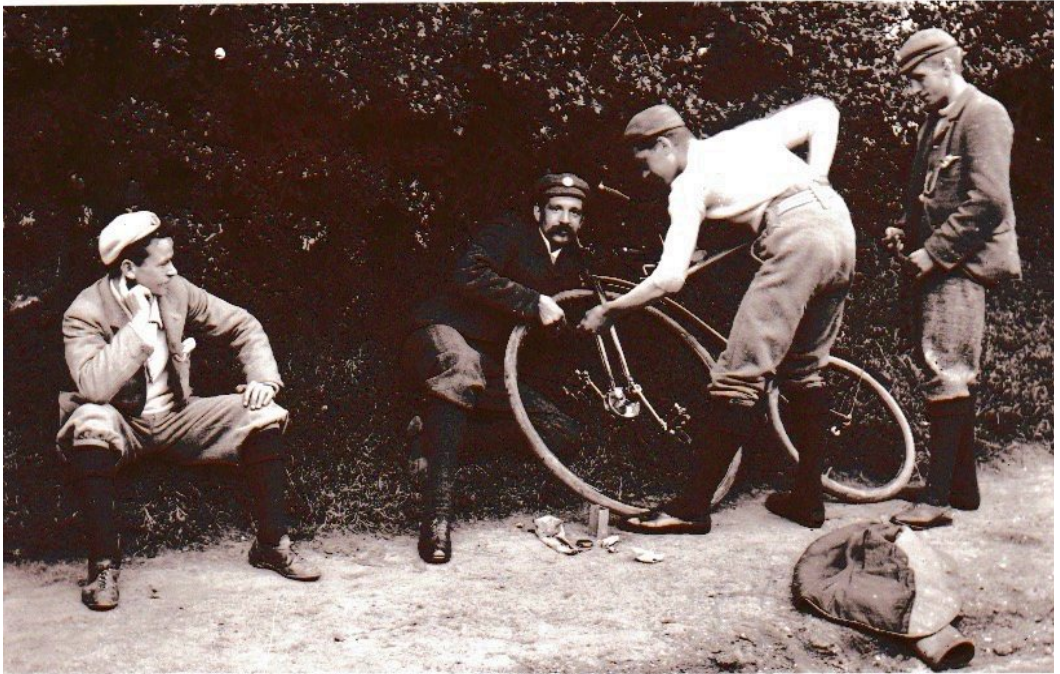
5th July - Mr Pickwick Goes to France - this long established adventure across the Channel is being investigated by the King of The Goblins (Robin Simpson) to see if it's possible to arrange a trip to see the Dunkerque to Calais stage of this year's Tour de France. It will all depend on any existing pandemic restrictions affecting entry into France. More information will be notified when available.

6/7th August - Eroica Britannia 2022 @ Goodwood - as mentioned on pp11, this event, which was trialled there last year, is scheduled to happen this summer at its new home, the iconic Goodwood Motor Racing circuit. Rides for all ages, offering 3 different distances across the Sussex Downs. Only stipulation is that all machines must be pre-1987. In addition, it is hoped that the planned 'race' for our Grand Old Ordinary trophies can take place on the circuit at this event. More information from - Mr Watty: stuart.elliott@elliotts.uk

6th October - Hampton Court Ride will be from its new HQ at the Thames Yacht Club - and hopefully offer its usual leisurely historic ride through Bushy Park, plus the road-ride for the more energetic. Contact: roger@burtscycles.co.uk

1st December - 152nd Annual Garden Party - apply Hon Sec.

Please remember the Club ruling about attending the requisite number of luncheons to maintain your membership.



A Pump-up Penny, a rare sight from the 1880-90's

Some time ago our now, new President (Hunt), sent me this somewhat rare photograph of a group of bicyclists attempting to pump up the tyres on an Ordinary. Quite unusual to have pneumatic tyres, and clearly not an ordinary Penny. So, some enquiries via the National Cycle Museum were made, and their historical advisor, Scotford Lawrence supplied the following observations - *“yes, they were tried, probably as an attempt to keep the high wheeler type of machine in business. There were technical problems of creating a pneumatic tyre big enough to encompass the circumference of the big wheel, and it quickly became clear that the design would not be viable. Then by the late 1880 - early 1890s, the experimental period of design of the Safety Bicycle had almost settled for the now familiar diamond frame; then came the pneumatic tyre and the Ordinary became a source of mockery. I'm not aware of any surviving pneumatic tyred Ordinaries - even without their tyres, and they simply disappeared to the scrap heap. But, yes they did exist as seen in the photograph.”*

So there we have an explanation about another period in the history of the bicycle. Fortunately there are still many solid tyre Ordinaries to be seen; in particular those ridden by members of our Club on our Hampton Court Ride.